

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A crank for a bicycle comprising an outer shell made of a fiber-reinforced plastic, a first insert member configured and arranged to introduce a load from a pedal shaft, and a second insert member coupled to a bracket spindle and configured and arranged to transmit a load to a sprocket, characterized in that said outer shell comprises at least two fiber-reinforced plastic members at least a part of each of which is molded in advance.

2. (original) The crank for a bicycle according to claim 1, wherein said outer shell is formed by bonding said at least two fiber-reinforced plastic members to each other.

3. (original) The crank for a bicycle according to claim 1, wherein said outer shell is formed by mechanically connecting said at least two fiber-reinforced plastic members to each other.

4. (currently amended) The crank for a bicycle according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein 50% or more of reinforcing fibers forming said at least two fiber-reinforced plastic members are in a range of 290 to 700 GPa in elastic modulus and in a range

of 40 to 70% in fiber volume content (V_f).

5. (currently amended) The crank for a bicycle according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein a formation of reinforcing fibers forming said at least two fiber-reinforced plastic members is a unidirectionally arranged formation of continuous fibers or a woven fabric.

6. (currently amended) The crank for a bicycle according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein at least a part of said outer shell is covered with a fiber-reinforced plastic layer.

7. (original) The crank for a bicycle according to claim 6, wherein said at least two fiber-reinforced plastic members are connected to each other so that a connection line thereof appeared outside extends in a longitudinal direction of said crank, and at least a part of said connection line is covered with a fiber-reinforced plastic layer.

8. (original) The crank for a bicycle according to claim 7, wherein 50 to 100% of the entire length of said connection line is covered with a fiber-reinforced plastic layer.

9. (currently amended) The crank for a bicycle according to ~~claim 7 or 8~~ claim 7, wherein the thickness of said fiber-reinforced plastic layer on said connection line is less than the thickness of each of said at least two fiber-reinforced plastic members.

10. (currently amended) The crank for a bicycle according to ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, wherein 30% or more of reinforcing fibers of said fiber-reinforced plastic layer on said connection line are oriented at an angle of 45 to 135 degrees relative to said connection line.

11. (currently amended) The crank for a bicycle according to ~~any of claims 6 to 10~~ claim 6, wherein a formation of reinforcing fibers forming said fiber-reinforced plastic layer is a woven fabric.

12. (currently amended) The crank for a bicycle according to ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of said insert members is formed from a metal, a resin, a fiber-reinforced plastic or a combination thereof.

13. (original) The crank for a bicycle according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said insert members is formed from a combination of an aluminum alloy and a fiber-reinforced plastic.

14. (original) The crank for a bicycle according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said insert members is formed from a heat treated aluminum alloy having a fatigue strength of 10 kgf/mm² or more.

15. (original) The crank for a bicycle according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said insert members is formed from an aluminum alloy formed with an oxide skin having a thickness of 3 to 30μm.

16. (currently amended) The crank for a bicycle according to ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of said insert members is bonded directly to all of said fiber-reinforced plastic members.

17. (currently amended) The crank for a bicycle according to ~~any of claims 2, 4 to 16~~ claim 2, wherein a Barcol hardness of an adhesive used for said bonding is smaller than that of a matrix

resin forming said fiber-reinforced plastic members.

18. (original) A method of producing a crank for a bicycle comprising the steps of:

 premolding a plurality of fiber-reinforced plastic members using a single-faced mold or a double-faced mold; and

 integrating said plurality of fiber-reinforced plastic members premolded.

19. (original) The method of producing a crank for a bicycle according to claim 18, wherein said plurality of fiber-reinforced plastic members molded in said premolding step are integrated as an outer shell of a first insert member configured and arranged to introduce a load from a pedal shaft and a second insert member coupled to a bracket spindle and configured and arranged to transmit a load to a sprocket.